

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 CPR-02 PPT-02 SCA-01 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 PC-04 /162 R

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APPROVED BY AF/ DAVID D. NEWSOM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123158

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, LI, US

SUBJ: TOLBERT VISIT

REF: STATE 112113

SUMMARY. TOLBERT DEPARTED US JUNE 20 FOR STATE VISIT TO
HAITI COMPLETING 21 DAY VISIT WITH POST- WASHINGTON
PORTION OF US VISIT AS SMOOTH AND SUCCESSFUL AS WASHINGTON
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AND SAN FRANCISCO (REFTEL). END SUMMARY

1. AT LOVE AIRPORT IN DALLAS JUST BEFORE DEPARTING FOR PORT- AU- PRINCE ON JUNE 20, TOLBERT TOOK AGGREY ASIDE TO SAY HE FELT ENTIRE VISIT HAD BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL. HE WAS DELIGHTED WITH HIS RECEPTION THROUGHOUT US AND DEEPLY APPRECIATED TIME, EFFORT AND RESOURCES USG HAD GIVEN TO MAKE HIS SOJOURN NOT ONLY PLEASANT, BUT EFFECTIVE AND REWARDING IN TERMS OF LIBERIA' S FUTURE. HE FELT US- LIBERIAN RELATIONS NOW HAD NEW DIMENSION. EARLIER, ON JUNE 19, DURING TV INTERVIEW, TOLBERT HAD SAID AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE HAD RECEIVED HIM WITH SPECIAL WARMTH AND AFFECTION AND TREATED HIM WITH SPECIAL ESTEEM AND RESPECT. SIMILAR SENTIMENTS WERE ECHOED BY FOUR CABINET MINISTERS ACCOMPANYING LIBERIAN PRESIDENT AND BY THE UNUSUALLY HARD- WORKING YOUNGER GOL AIDES.

2. CHICAGO STAY DIVIDED BETWEEN OFFICIAL RECEPTION AND CEREMONIES BY MAYOR DALEY INCLUDING IMPRESSIVE DINNER, AND MEETINGS WITH BLACK BUSINESSMEN AND AT PUSH HEAD- QUARTERS. TOLBERT MADE SPECIAL PITCH TO BLACK BUSINESSMEN FOR NEW INVESTMENT IN LIBERIA AND MENTIONED THAT GOL WAS INVESTIGATING IDEA OF DUAL CITIZENSHIP FOR AMERICANS. HE SAID THIS OPTION NOW PRECLUDED BY LIBERIAN CONSTITUTION BUT THAT HE STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION TO PERMIT DUAL CITIZENSHIP IF PROPER FORMULA CAN BE FOUND.

3. TOLBERT DELIVERED PERHAPS HIS MOST SIGNIFICANT SPEECH AT NEW YORK DINNER GIVEN BY COMPANIES OPERATING IN LIBERIA. IN SETTING MARKED BY OPULENCE, TOLBERT STRESSED TO ASSEMBLED BUSINESS EXECUTIVES POVERTY OF AVERAGE LIBERIAN AND THAT PARTNERSHIP INDEED MEANT SHARING. EXECUTIVES WITH WHOM WE DISCUSSED SPEECH RANGED IN THEIR ASSESSMENT FROM " TOUGH BUT FAIR" TO " CAUSE FOR CONCERN". THERE SHOULD BE NO CAUSE FOR MISUNDERSTANDING TOLBERT' S STRAIGHTFORWARD REMARKS.

4. PRESIDENT VISIBLY TIRED BY THE TIME HE ARRIVED FOR LOW- KEY DAYTON/ WILBERFORCE VISIT WHICH INCLUDED SMALL LUNCHEON ATTEED BY OHIO GOVERNOR GILLIGEN.

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5. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF PARTY MET WITH STATE/ AID/ PEACE CORPS DURING JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL HIATUS. WEEKS, STEPHEN TOLBERT AND NEAL HELD SECOND WORKING SESSION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM, DR. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON JUNE 13. WE INDICATED AVAILABILITY OF MOBILE HOSPITAL UNITS, INCLUDING AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER UNDER GRANT ARRANGEMENTS, AND SURPLUS ROAD BUILDING EQUIPMENT AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

FOR PURCHASE AT PRICES AVAILABLE TO USG. DR. NEHEMIAH COOPER HAS VIEWED HOSPITAL UNIT AND BELIEVES HE CAN EFFECTIVELY USE THREE AT THIS TIME EVEN THOUGH MINISTERS PUSHING FOR ONE FOR EACH COUNTY. JULIUS COOPER VIEWED ROADBUILDING EQUIPMENT AND HAS DETERMINED ONLY CATERPILLAR TRACTORS ARE OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO GOL. WE HAVE " HOLD" ON NINE HOSPITALS AND THREE TRACTORS. WE HOPE TO HAVE HIGH LEVEL LETTER FOR TOLBERT SETTING DOWN VERY GOOD US ASSISTANCE RECORD IN LIBERIA DURING HIS TENURE AS PRESIDENT. WORKING SESSION ENDED ON EXTREMELY HIGH NOTE WITH ALL THREE LIBERIAN MINISTERS VISIBLY PLEASED BY NEWSOM' S EXPLANATION OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIBERIA AND THE US.

6. TEXAS WAS FITTING LAST STOP FOR TOLBERT VISIT. SURROUNDED BY OLD BAPTIST FRIENDS AND NEW TEXAN POTENTIAL INVESTORS, HE STRESSED LONE STAR REPUBLIC' S COMMITMENT TO EMULATE LONE STAR STATE' S ASTOUNDING DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVEMENTS. SOUTHERN BAPTISTS, BISHOP COLLEGE, AND NATIONAL

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BAPTIST TRAINING UNION CONGRESS PLEDGED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO RALLY CAMPAIGN.

7. THROUGHOUT VISIT POSITIVE RESPONSE OF LIBERIAN AND OTHER AFRICAN STUDENTS IN US WAS NOTED NOT ONLY IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO RALLY BUT ALSO IN EXPRESSED DESIRES TO RETURN HOME TO WORK FOR LIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT.

8. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT SUCCESS OF VISIT EXCEEDED GOL' S MOST OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATIONS. LIBERIANS AWAIT FOLLOW- UP ON VARIOUS ASSISTANCE PROJECTS. WHILE THEY AVOW GREATER REALIZATION OF GENUINE US CONCERN AND DESIRE FOR COOPERATION THEY HAVE IDEA OF OUR LIMITED RESOURCES AND
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THEIR OWN PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES. RUSH

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